Russian Deputy Prime Minister's visit

1992. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Deputy Prime Minister has recently visited India and held discussion on several matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that he pressed India for routing of all Russian Defence deals through its trading house; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Ilya Klebanov, then Deputy Chairman (Deputy Prime Minister) of the Government of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from 5-8 February, 2002 for the Eighth Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) and the Second Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC).

(b) During this visit, Mr. Klebanov and Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha co-chaired the Eighth Session of the IRIGC on 7th February, 2002. Mr. Klebanov and *Raksha Mantri* Shri George Fernandes co-chaired the Second Session of the IRIGC-MTC. Protocols were signed at the end of both these meetings. Mr. Klebanov also called on the President and Prime Minister of India. He met with the External Affairs Minister and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor Shri Brajesh Mishra.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.